



BRITISH GENERAL ELECTION STUDY 1997

P.1573

SELF-COMPLETION QUESTIONNAIRE

INTERV	VIEWER TO ENTER	*
2101-6		Serial No.
2107-08		Card No.
2109-13		Batch No.
2114-17		Interviewer No.

To the selected respondent:

Thank you very much for agreeing to take part in this important study of the British general election. This study is the tenth in the series which have taken place after every general election since 1964. It consists of this self-completion questionnaire, and the interview you have already completed. The results will be published in a book due out in the next year or so.

Completing the questionnaire:

The questions inside cover a wide range of subjects, but most can be answered simply by placing a tick $(\sqrt{})$ in one or more of the boxes. No special knowledge is required: we are confident that everyone will be able to take part, not just those with strong views or particular viewpoints. The questionnaire should not take very long to complete, and we hope you will find it interesting and enjoyable. Only you should fill it in, and not anyone else at your address. The answers you give will be treated as confidential and anonymous.

Returning the questionnaire:

Your interviewer will arrange with you the most convenient way of returning the questionnaire. If the interviewer has arranged to call back for it, please fill it in and keep it safely until then. If not, please complete it and post it back in the pre-paid, addressed envelope, AS SOON AS YOU POSSIBLY CAN.

THANK YOU AGAIN FOR YOUR HELP.

Social and Community Planning Research is an independent social research institute registered as a charitable trust. Its projects are funded by government departments, local authorities, universities and foundations to provide information on social issues in Britain. The British Election Study is funded by the Economic and Social Research Council. Please contact us if you would like further information.

1.	Some people say that all political parties look after certain groups and are not so concerned about others. How closely do you think the <u>Conservative Party</u> looks after the interests of					
	PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ON EACH LINE	Very closely	Fairly closely	Not very closely	Not at all closely	
a.	working class people?					2118
b.	middle class people?					2119
C.	unemployed people?					2120
d.	big business?					2121
e.	trade unions?					2122
f.	black people and Asians in Britain?					2123
	people on benefits?					2124
g.	• •					
	the very rich?					2125
		(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	212
h.		(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	212
h.	the very rich? And how closely do you think the Labour Party	Very closely	(2) Fairly closely	(3) Not very closely	(4) Not at all closely	212
h. 2.	the very rich? And how closely do you think the <u>Labour Party</u> looks after the interests of PLEASE TICK ONE BOX	Very	Fairly	Not very	Not at all	
h. 2.	the very rich? And how closely do you think the <u>Labour Party</u> looks after the interests of PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ON EACH LINE	Very	Fairly	Not very	Not at all	2120
h. 2. a. b.	the very rich? And how closely do you think the Labour Party looks after the interests of PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ON EACH LINE working class people?	Very	Fairly	Not very	Not at all	212
h. 2. a. b. c.	the very rich? And how closely do you think the Labour Party looks after the interests of PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ON EACH LINE working class people? middle class people?	Very	Fairly	Not very	Not at all	2126 2127 2128 2128
h. 2. a. b. c. d.	the very rich? And how closely do you think the Labour Party looks after the interests of PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ON EACH LINE working class people? middle class people? unemployed people?	Very	Fairly	Not very	Not at all	212t 212t
h. 2. a. b. c. d. e.	the very rich? And how closely do you think the Labour Party looks after the interests of PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ON EACH LINE working class people? middle class people? unemployed people? big business?	Very	Fairly	Not very	Not at all	2126 2127 2128
h. 2. a. b. c. d. e. f.	the very rich? And how closely do you think the Labour Party looks after the interests of PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ON EACH LINE working class people? middle class people? unemployed people? big business? trade unions?	Very	Fairly	Not very	Not at all	2126 2127 2128 2129 2130
h. 2. a. b. c. d. e. f. g.	the very rich? And how closely do you think the Labour Party looks after the interests of PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ON EACH LINE working class people? middle class people? unemployed people? big business? trade unions? black people and Asians in Britain?	Very	Fairly	Not very	Not at all	2128 2128 2128 2130 2131

+

+

3.	Please tick <u>one</u> box for <u>each</u> statement below to show how much you agree or disagree with it.						
	PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ON EACH LINE	Agree strongly	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Disagree strongly	
a.	Ordinary working people get their fair share of the nation's wealth						:
b.	There is one law for the rich and one for the poor						
C.	Young people today don't have enough respect for traditional British values						
d.	Censorship of films and magazines is necessary to uphold moral standards						
e.	There is no need for strong trade unions to protect employees' working conditions and wages						
f.	Private enterprise is the best way to solve Britain's economic problems						
g.	Major public services and industries ought to be in state ownership	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	:
			` ,	• •	· /	(-)	
4.	Please tick <u>one</u> box for <u>each</u> statement below to show how much you agree or disagree with it.						
4.		Agree strongly	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Disagree strongly	
	show how much you agree or disagree with it. PLEASE TICK ONE BOX	_	Agree	Neither agree nor		Disagree	
a.	show how much you agree or disagree with it. PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ON EACH LINE It is the government's responsibility to	_	Agree	Neither agree nor		Disagree	:
a. b.	show how much you agree or disagree with it. PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ON EACH LINE It is the government's responsibility to provide a job for everyone who wants one People should be allowed to organise public	_	Agree	Neither agree nor		Disagree	
a. b.	show how much you agree or disagree with it. PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ON EACH LINE It is the government's responsibility to provide a job for everyone who wants one People should be allowed to organise public meetings to protest against the government	_	Agree	Neither agree nor		Disagree	:
a.b.c.d.	show how much you agree or disagree with it. PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ON EACH LINE It is the government's responsibility to provide a job for everyone who wants one People should be allowed to organise public meetings to protest against the government Homosexual relations are always wrong People in Britain should be more tolerant	_	Agree	Neither agree nor		Disagree	:

-						-
5.	If you had to choose among the items on the list below, which are the <u>two</u> that seem most desirable to you?			Canand		
	PLEASE TICK ONE BOX IN THE FIRST COL AND ONE BOX IN THE SECOND COLUMN	UMN	Most desirab	Second most le desirable		
			(2146)	(2147)		
	Maintaining ord	ler in the natior			(1)	
	Giving people more say in important po	litical decisions			(2)	
	Fighti	ng rising prices	,		(3)	
	Protecting free	edom of speech			(4)	
		Can't choose			(5)	
6.	Please tick <u>one</u> box for <u>each</u> statement below to show how much you agree or disagree with it.	0				
	PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ON EACH LINE	Agree strongly	Agree	Disagree	Disagree strongly	
a.	The moral standards of British politicians have declined in recent years					2
b.	Any individual who gives money to a political party should be allowed to keep their gift privat if they wish	е				2
C.	MPs salaries are much too low					2
		(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	
7.	From time to time MPs get involved in financial scandals. Do you think that	l				
	Conservative MPs are more likely to g	jet involved in th	nese sorts of sca	ndals, (1)	2
	Labo	ur MPs are mor	e likely to get inv	olved,	2)	
	or, is it more a matter of	which particula	rMPs get the ch	ance?	3)	
			Can't c	hoose ((8)	
8.	Please tick <u>one</u> box for <u>each</u> statement below show how much you agree or disagree with it.	to			8)	
8.		Agree strongly	Can't c Neit agree Agree disa	her e nor	Disagree	
	show how much you agree or disagree with it. PLEASE TICK ONE BOX	Agree	Neit agree	her e nor	Disagree	
a.	show how much you agree or disagree with it. PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ON EACH LINE People like me have no say in what the	Agree	Neit agree	her e nor	Disagree	
a. b.	show how much you agree or disagree with it. PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ON EACH LINE People like me have no say in what the government does Parties are only interested in people's votes,	Agree strongly	Neit agree	her e nor gree Disagree	Disagree	:

							+
9.	Here are some decisions that could be made <u>either</u> MPs we elect to parliament <u>or</u> by everyone having a special vote or referendum.	er by the ga say in					
a.	First, who do you think should make the decision a or not Britain should replace the pound with a sing currency? Should the decision be made	about wheth gle Europea	ner n				
	PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ONLY	by ele	ected MPs	in parliamer	nt	(1)	2155
				Of		(2)	
		by eve	ryone in a	referendum	·	(2)	
				Can't choos	е 🔙	(8)	
b.	And who do you think should make the decision a or not Britain should introduce proportional represente number of MPs each party gets matches more number of votes each party gets? Should that de	sentation so e closely the	that e				
	PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ONLY	by el	ected MPs	s in parliamer		(1)	2156
				Oi		(2)	
		by eve	eryone in a	a referendum	l?	(2)	
				Can't choos	se	(8)	
C.	And who do you think should make the decision a or not a Scottish parliament is set up? Should that	about wheth	ner be made .				
				ish parliamer	nt,	(1)	2157
	by all the elected So	cottish MPs	in the Brit	ish parliamer	nt,	(2)	
	·			a referendu		(3)	
	or, by th	e people of	Britain in	a referendur	n?	(4)	
				Can't choo	se	(8)	
10	Please tick <u>one</u> box for <u>each</u> statement below to show how much you agree or disagree with it.			Neither			
	PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ON EACH LINE	Agree strongly	Agree	agree nor	Disagree	Disagree strongly	Can't choose
a	It is a good thing for schools to be made to compete against each other for pupils						2158
t	 The cleverest children should be selected for education in separate schools such as grammal schools (in Scotland these are known as Senior Secondary Schools) 	· [2159
(c. Government should raise income tax by one penny in the pound in order to spend more on						2160
	education	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(8)

+

11a.	Which of these statements comes closest to you	ur views?					
	PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ONLY						
	The British government should British workers have the same right			else in Euro		(1)	2161
	The British government sho because it would co					(2)	
				Can't choo	se	(8)	
b.	And which of these statements comes closest to PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ONLY	o your views	5?				
				m wage so the orkers too lit		(1)	2162
	There should be no minin set by law would cost					(2)	
				Can't choo	se	(8)	
12.	Please tick <u>one</u> box for <u>each</u> statement below to show how much you agree or disagree with it.			Neither		Diogram	Con't
. 12.		Agree strongly	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Disagree strongly	Can't choose
	show how much you agree or disagree with it. PLEASE TICK ONE BOX	Agree strongly	Agree	agree nor	Disagree	-	
a.	show how much you agree or disagree with it. PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ON EACH LINE It would be better if everyone paid less tax and had to pay more towards their own health care,	Agree strongly	Agree	agree nor	Disagree	-	choose
a. b.	show how much you agree or disagree with it. PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ON EACH LINE It would be better if everyone paid less tax and had to pay more towards their own health care, schools and the like Everyone's taxes should go up to provide bette	Agree strongly	Agree	agree nor	Disagree (4)	-	choose

l						1
13.	On the whole, how sa way democracy works					
	PLEASE TICK ONE B	_		satis	sfied, (1)	2166
				fairly satis	sfied, (2)	
				not very satis	sfied, (3)	
				or not at all satis	fied? (4)	
		,.				
14.	In other countries, pec Thinking of the last ge on this scale of one to	ople believe their e neral election in E five where <u>ONE</u>	elections are conducted elections are conducted Britain, where would you means that the last elect he last election was cond	unfairly. place it tion was		
	PLEASE TICK ONE B	3OX ONLY				
	Last election was conducted <u>fairly</u>	•			Last election was conducted <u>unfairly</u>	
						2167
	1	2	3	4	5	
b.	PLEASE ANSWER IF CLOSE TO ANY PAR Do you feel a little clos political parties than the SAID YES AT a. OR A Which party is that? PLEASE WRITE IN N.	FYOU DO NOT FRICULAR PART SET to one of the ne others? FYOU AT b.	Yes No	(√) (1) - (2) - (1) - (2) -	→ Please go to c → Continue with b Continue with c → Please go to Q16 (on the next page)	2168
d.	Do you feel	v	rery close to this party, somewhat close, or, not very close?	(/) (1) (2) (3)		2170
		OFFICE USE	ONLY			2171-72
						EE

	PLEASE TICK ONE BOX	ONLY				
	Political parties in Britain <u>care</u> what ordinary people think				Political parties in Britain <u>don't</u> care what ordinary people think	
			-			2173
	1	2	3	4	5	
	Some people say that po work in Britain. Others s scale, where would you pure the political parties are necessary to make our political system work	ay that political place yourself?	<u>necessary</u> to make parties are <u>not need</u>	our political system ad in Britain. Using	Political parties are <u>not needed</u> in Britain	2174
	1	2	3 of any candidates	4	5	
18.	Do you happen to remer who stood in your consti	tuency in the ge	neral election this ye		OFFICE USE	
	PLEASE WRITE IN ALL REMEMBER	. THE NAMES	JF CANDIDATES T	mar 100 oan	ONLY	
	Name					2175
	Name					2176
	Name					2177
	Name					2178
	Name			·		
						2179
	Name					2179 2180

EVERYONE PLEASE ANSWER

HH

19.	We would like to know what you the Please rate each party on a scale strongly dislike that party and 10 r	trom U to 1	u, where	Unieans	liiat you				
	If you come to a party that you ha you know enough about it, please	ven't heard tick one of	of or you the boxe	don't fee s on the r	that ght.				
	PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ON EA	CH LINE							
		Strongly dislike				Strongly like	Haven't heard of	Can't choose	
a.	PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ONLY The Conservative Party	0 1	2 3	4 5	6 7 8	9 10	(96)	(98)	2219-20
b.	PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ONLY The Labour Party	0 1	2 3	4 5	6 7 8	9 10	(96)	(98)	2221-22
С.	PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ONLY The Liberal Democratic Party	0 1	2 3	4 5	6 7 8	9 10	(96)	(98)	2223-24
d.	ANSWER IN SCOTLAND ONLY PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ONLY The Scottish National Party		2 3	4 5	6 7 8	9 10	(96)	(98)	2225-26
е.	ANSWER IN WALES ONLY PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ONLY Plaid Cymru	0 1	2 3	4 5	6 7 8	9 10	(96)	(98)	2227-28
20	EVERYONE PLEASE ANSWE. And now, again using the scale much you like or dislike each of	from 0 to 1	0, please leaders	show hov	v 1				
	at the last general election.	Strongly dislike	•			→ Strongly like	Haven't heard of	Can't	9
а	PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ONL' John Major		2 3	4 5	6 7	8 9 10	(96)	(98)	2229-30
 b	PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ONL . Tony Blair	Y	2 3	3 4 5	6 7	8 9 10	(96)	(98)	2231-32
	PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ONL Department : Paddy Ashdown	Y	2	3 4 5	6 7	8 9 10	(96)	(98)	2233-34
	ANSWER IN SCOTLAND ONL PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ONL d. Alex Salmond]] [3 4 5	6 7	8 9 10	(96)	(98)	2235-36
	ANSWER IN WALES ONLY PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ONL e. Dafydd Wigley		1 2	3 4 5	6 7	8 9 10	(96)	(98)	2237-38

KK

						_
	EVERYONE PLEASE ANS					
!1a.	What do you think about th these days in Britain? Wou of the economy is	e state of the eco ld you say that th	nomy e state			
	PLEASE TICK ONE BOX	ONLY				
				ver	y good, (1)	223
					good, (2)	
				neither good n	or bad, (3)	
					bad, (4)	
				or, ve	ry bad? (5)	
b.	Would you say that over the state of the economy in	ne past twelve mo	onths,			
	PLEASE TICK ONE BOX					
				got much	n better, (1)	22
				got somewha	at better, (2)	
				stayed th	e same, (3)	
				got somewha	t worse, (4)	
				or, got a lot	worse? (5)	
22.	Some people say that Me Others say that Members people think. Using this s	of Parliament do	n't know much abou	ut wnat ordinary	nk.	
	PLEASE TICK ONE BOX					
	Members of Parliament <u>know</u> what ordinary people think	4		-	Members of Parliament <u>don't</u> <u>know</u> what ordinary people think	
	people allim					
						23

LL

+							4
	23.	During the past twelve with a Member of Parlia	amentin any way				
		PLEASE TICK ONE BO	OX ONLY				
						Yes (1) No (2)	2242
	24.	Some people say that i Others say that it does Using this scale, where	n't make a differe	ence who is in power.			
		PLEASE TICK ONE BO	OX ONLY				
		It <u>makes a</u> <u>difference</u> who is in power	•			It <u>doesn't make</u> <u>a difference</u> who is in power	
		<u></u> 1	2	3	4	5	2243
		Some people say that r to what happens. Othe happens. Using this so PLEASE TICK ONE BO	ers say that who particles ale, where would	people vote for can ma	ake a difference	e to what	
		Who people vote for <u>won't make</u> <u>a difference</u>				Who people vote for <u>can make</u> <u>a difference</u>	
		1	2	3	4	5	2244
	26.	When people are asked Britain usually say what usually hide what they in think most people in Britania	t they think abou really think about itain do?	t politics or do you beli	eve most peop	le	
		PLEASE TICK ONE BO	DX ONLY				
		Most people in Britain <u>usually</u> <u>say what they think</u> about politics	<			Most people in in Britain usually hide what they really think about politics	
		1	2	3		5	2245
		-	-	·	-	•	

27.		In politics people sometimes talk or you place yourself on a scale from and 10 means the right?	f left and right. Where would 0 to 10, where 0 <u>means the left</u>			Can't	
			Left ← →	Right		choose	
	a.	PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ONLY Your own position	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	9 10		(98)	2246-47
	****	Using the same scale, where would you place	Left ← →	Right	Haven't heard of	Can't choose	
	b.	PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ONLY The Conservative Party	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	9 10	(96)	(98)	2248-49
	С.	PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ONLY The Labour Party		9 10	(96)	(98)	2250-51
	d.	PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ONLY The Liberal Democratic Party		9 10	(96)	(98)	2252-53
	е.	ANSWER IN SCOTLAND ONLY PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ONLY The Scottish National Party	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	9 10	(96)	(98)	2254-55
	f.	ANSWER IN WALES ONLY PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ONLY Plaid Cymru	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	9 10	(96)	(98)	2256-57
28		To help us plan better in future, p took you to complete this questio	lease tell us about how long it nnaire.				
		PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ONLY	Less than 1	15 minutes	(1)		2258
			Between 15 and 2	20 minutes	(2)		
			Between 21 and 3	30 minutes	(3)		
			Between 31 and	45 minutes	(4)		
			Between 46 and	60 minutes	(5)		
			Ove	er one hour	(6)		
29	9.	And on what date did you fill in the PLEASE WRITE IN	ne questionnaire				2259-62
		Thank you very mu	ch for your help. Please return the she has arranged to call for it. Casible in the pre-paid addressed)therwise	e, piease po	SL	